

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 CAB-02 COME-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 FAA-00 SAM-01

OPIC-03 /078 W

----- 130192

R 151531Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4214

INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SWLAAM

AMEMBASSY BAGORONE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PRETORIA 0046

CAPE TOWN PASS AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EAIR, MZ, PO

SUBJECT; MOZAMBIQUE COMMUNIQUE ON AIR DISPUTE WITH PORTUGAL

1. LOCAL PRESS JAN 15 PUBLISHED COMMUNIQUE FROM MOZAMBIQUE
MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS FOLLOWING RETURN OF
MOZAMBIQUE DELEGATION FROM DISCUSSIONS IN LISBON ON AIR LINKS
BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AND PORTUGAL'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF SUS-
PENSION OF TAP FLIGHTS TO MOZAMBIQUE.

2. GPRM COMMUNIQUE STATED GPRM DELEGATION TRIED VERY HARD TO
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ESTABLISH BILATERAL AGREEMENT, BUT WERE PRESENTED WITH A PROTOCOL
BY GOP WHICH IMPOSED DEMANDS OVER MOZAMBIQUE'S SOVEREIGNTY OF

AIRSPACE AND WHICH WERE DESIGNED TO BENEFIT PORTUGUESE COMMERCIAL INTERESTS. WHEN THESE DEMANDS CREATED AN IMPASSE, GPO DELEGATION DECIDED TO SUSPEND TAP FLIGHTS TO MOZAMBIQUE AND DETA FLIGHTS TO PORTUGAL. COMMUNIQUE CLOSED WITH NOTE THAT GOP ACTION AGAINST SPIRIT OF COOPERATION AND FRIENDLINESS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. NONETHELESS, GPRM WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ENSURE NORMAL OUTFLOW OF TRAFFIC SO THAT PORTUGUESE PASSENGERS CAN RETURN TO THEIR COUNTRY.

3. EDITORIAL COMMENT IN DAILY PRESS HAMMERED PORTUGUESE INFRINGEMENT OF MOZAMBIQUE SOVEREIGNTY. EDITORIAL MENTIONED REAL PROBLEM; THAT MOZAMBIQUE INSISTED THAT TJP LAND ONLY IN BEIRA AND THAT DETA PROVIDE ONGOING SERVICE TO AND FROM LOURENCO MARQUES, BUT CLAIMED THIS WAS A NATIONAL DECISION AND ANY ATTEMPTED INTERFERENCE WAS VIOLATION OF AGREEMENT NOT TO MEDDLE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS.

4. LOCAL SOURCES CONFIRM THAT GPRM DELEGATION ADAMANT ON BEIRA ONLY RESTRICTION FOR TAP, WHEREUPON GOP DELEGATION ANNOUNCED THAT DETA COULD NOT GO TO LIBSON.

5. COMMENT: ABOVE IS REFLECTION OF INCREASINGLY DETERIORATING RELATIONS BETWEEN GPRM AND GOP. GPRM VIEWS GOP AS INCREASINGLY REACTIONARY AND BACKSLIDING FROM REVOLUTION, AND SAYS SO FREQUENTLY IN LOCAL PRESS. GOP DOUBTLESS AGGRIEVED BY HARASSMENT AND DETENTION OF ITS CITIZENS IN MOZAMBIQUE. PUBLISHING OF THIS COMMUNIQUE WILL BE VIEWED AS YET ANOTHER SIGNAL TO REMAINING 50-60,000 PORTUGUESE IN MOZAMBIQUE TO GET OUT. EMBASSY ADVISED THAT TAP HAD BEEN FULLY BOOKED THROUGH APRIL AND THAT UPWARDS OF 20,000 PORTUGUESE PLANNING DEPART IN NEXT FEW MONTHS. THEY WILL NOT HAVE TO EXIT VIA SOUTH AFRICA AND SAA, WHO WE UNDERSTAND ARE RETAINING CURRENT UNPROFITABLE BOEING 737 FLIGHTS TO LOURENCO MARQUES IN ANTICIPATION OF EXODUS. PUBLICATION OF DISPUTE WILL DO NOTHING FOR GPRM RECRUITMENT EFFORTS FOR TECHNICAL AND MEDICAL PERSONNEL CURRENTLY UNDERWAY IN PORTUGAL. CARSON

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